

# Diversity Visa Scammers Sending Fraudulent Emails and Letters

The Department of State, Office of Visa Services, advises the public of a notable increase and reporting of fraudulent emails and letters sent to Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) program (Visa Lottery) applicants. The scammers behind these fraudulent emails and letters pose as the U.S. government, and attempt to extract payment or favor from DV applicants. We strongly encourage you to review the procedures for the DV program so that you know what to expect and from whom.

Official information can be found at <https://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>. And

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate/diversity-visa.html?>

## What should I do if I spot a scam?

If you suspect a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission:

Call 1-877-382-4357 or go to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

## What do I need to know about scams?

Scammers try to trick people who enter the Diversity Visa Lottery. Scammers might:

- charge you money to help you apply
- promise to increase your chance of being picked
- send you a message saying you won and ask for money.

If you remember how the Diversity Visa Lottery works, it will be hard for scammers to get your money.

It is free to enter the Diversity Visa lottery at [dvlottery.state.gov](https://dvlottery.state.gov).

- The drawing is random. There is no way to increase your chance of winning.
- You can find out your status only at [dvlottery.state.gov](https://dvlottery.state.gov).
- You do not pay until you find out your entry was picked, and you go to the U.S. embassy or consulate in person for your appointment.



U.S. Embassy, Georgetown, Guyana



# Diversity

# Visa

# WHAT

# YOU

# NEED

# TO

# KNOW!!



## Overview

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program offers up to 55,000 diversity visas (DVs) annually. The visas are drawn from random selection among all entries for those who meet strict eligibility requirements from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. **There is no cost to register for the DV Program and Guyanese citizens and residents do qualify to apply!**

## Requirement #1

An applicant must be a native of a country on the low admission state list. Natives are usually those born in a particular country (not necessarily citizens or those currently residing there). **Guyana is a low admission state country.**



## Requirement #2

To meet the education/work experience requirement of the DV program, you must have either:

A high school education or its equivalent, defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education; OR

Two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform. **The U.S. Department of Labor's O\*Net Online database (<http://www.onetonline.org/>) will be used to determine qualifying work experience.**

## Submission of an Entry

Instructions on how to enter the diversity visa lottery are published annually, and are available on the following website: **<http://travel.state.gov/>**. The instructions include a list of "high" and "low" admission states for that year.

The diversity lottery entry must contain the applicant's name, date and place of birth, native country, names of children and spouse, mailing address, and a photograph. Selection of winning entries occurs at the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC), a Department of State domestic processing center. **No fee is charged to file the entry.**

## Entrant Status Check

Entrant Status Check is the **ONLY** means of informing you if your entry was selected or not. All entrants, including those **NOT** selected, may check the status of their entries through the Entrant Status Check at <https://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>. Entrants will need to use the information from their confirmation pages saved at the time of entry.

## Fraud Warning

Fraudulent websites are posing as official U.S. government sites for the purposes of the Diversity Visa. Some companies posing as the U.S. government have sought money in order to "complete" DV entry forms. There is no charge to download and complete the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form. The Department of State does **NOT** notify successful DV applicants by letter or email.

